

CLAIMS

1. A pad for use in protecting the trochantheric region of the body comprises at least two separate layers, a substantially rigid layer (1), and a layer of dense,
5 closed-cell resilient foam material (2); wherein the substantially rigid layer (1) includes a projecting boss (3) which, in use, is located in the region of the greater trochanter to increase the spacing between the outside of the rigid layer (1) and the greater trochanter; and wherein
10 the layer of closed-cell foam material (2) extends over a greater area than the substantially rigid layer (1) so that the periphery of the substantially rigid layer (1) lies entirely within the periphery of the foam layer (2).
2. A pad according to claim 1, in which the side walls of
15 the projecting boss (3) are substantially frusto-conical so that the base of the boss (3) extends over a greater area than the top (11).
3. A pad according to claim 2, in which the side walls of the boss (3) are flared outwards at the base to merge into
20 the remainder of the substantially rigid layer (1) and join the top of the boss (11) at a rounded corner.
4. A pad according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the top of the boss (3) is thinner than the remainder of the rigid layer (1) with the sidewall of the boss having
25 a thickness corresponding to that of the remainder of the substantially rigid layer (1) at its base and tapering to that of the top of the boss (11) at its top.
5. A pad according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the pad includes a third layer (10) of less dense
30 foam material remote from the substantially rigid layer.
6. A pad according to claim 5, in which the third layer (10) has a greater extent than the layer of closed-cell foam (2) and that the periphery of the layer of closed-cell foam (2) lies wholly within the periphery of the third
35 layer (10).
7. A pad according to any one of the preceding claims, in which apertures (7) are provided through at least the rigid

(1) and closed cell foam (2) layers of a pad to provide for ventilation.

8. A protection device for covering the trochantheric region of the body includes two protective pads (22) in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, connected to a support (20,21,23,27) so that, in use, the pads cover the trochantheric regions of the user of the protection device.

9. A protection device according to claim 8, in which the support has the form of a garment which covers the trochantheric area.

10. A protection device according to claim 9, in which the garment has the form of an undergarment (23,27) having a waistband (24,28) and being arranged, in use, to extend down the thighs of the wearer.

11. A protective device according to claim 9 or 10, in which the garment (25,27) includes pockets (30) which hold the pads (22).